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News Release ~ Communiqué

Michel Dupuy grants funding to the National Circus School

MONTREAL, April 10, 1995 - The Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today announced a contribution to the National Circus School in Montreal. The school performs a unique, professional, training role and this funding will ensure that it will be able to continue providing high quality instruction.

"The National Circus School has contributed in an extraordinary way to the enrichment of our artistic heritage and its international reputation makes us all very proud," Mr. Dupuy said. "The Government of Canada is aware that national institutions offering artistic training must be in a position to hire and retain highly qualified teachers, if they are to remain competitive and maintain excellent teaching standards."

The contribution of \$250,000 was allocated to upgrade management and will be used to lay the foundations of the first collective agreement and to review the organization's operational structure. This support demonstrates the federal government's desire to safeguard standards of excellence at one of the world's most prestigious schools offering professional training to circus performers.

Housed in the former Dalhousie Station, an historic building in Old Montreal, this school was opened in 1986 and trains circus performers as well as artistic consultants and future directors. It offers a four-year professional training program, a year-long proficiency program, programs adapted to individual needs and programs for children. The School currently has 231 students and 23 teachers.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1995 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework. This initiative is an example of how this government is prioritizing its spending so that it can better serve Canadians by making efficient use of their tax dollars.

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